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## IV. WELSH NOTICES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CAMBRO-BRITON.

SIR,—In the earlier volumes of the *Archæologia*, published by the Antiquarian Society, may be found some curious papers on Welsh Antiquities, well worth the notice of the historian. Mr. Edward Llwyd's *Itinerary through Wales*, published in the *Philosophical Transactions*, also deserves attention. Mr. Gough's *Anecdotes of British Topography* will acquaint the reader with many rare and curious traits in print and manuscript, relating to Wales, which are but very imperfectly known. Mr. John Wilkins, goldsmith to king James I., furnished Drayton with many of those curious particulars relative to Wales, which are not to be met with elsewhere.

*Malkin's "South Wales,"* 8vo. vol. i. p. 112.

In the *Retrospective Review*, No. 10, see an account of Richard Burton's *History of the Principality of Wales*, (published May 1st, 1822\*.)

OBSERVATOR.

## V. EISTEDDVOD AT CAERWYS, FLINTSHIRE,

In May, 1798†.

IN consequence of a notice published by the gentlemen of the Gwyneddigion, or Venedocian Society, in London, the Eisteddvod commenced at Caerwys, on Tuesday, the 29th day of May, 1798. The ancient Town-hall was properly prepared for holding the meeting by the judges appointed by the Society to decide on the merits of the performances, whose activity and public spirit on the occasion deserved the highest praise.

The first day was taken up in reading and comparing the poetical Compositions of the several Candidates for the *Gadair*, or Chair of Honour. The *Thesis*, previously fixed upon by the Gwyneddigion, for the Bards to display their powers, was

\* We are much obliged to an old correspondent for these hints. The article in the *Retrospective Review*, to which he alludes, is, we have reason to know, the production of a gentleman, to whom the pages of the CAMBRO-BRITON have been, on several occasions, indebted for many valuable contributions.—ED.

† We are indebted to our friend OBSERVATOR for this notice, which was supplied by Mr. Henry Parry of Holywell to Warner's "Walk in Wales." At the present moment it may be thought interesting.—ED.

"The love of our Country, and the commemoration of the celebrated Eisteddvod held at the same town, and under the same roof, by virtue of a commission from Queen Elizabeth;" and, the subject being congenial to the spirit of the ancient Britons, the productions were both numerous and animated. After a close examination of the merits of the several compositions, and mature deliberation, the Judges determined in favour of Robert Davydd of Nantglyn, in Denbighshire, known among the bards by the name of *Robin Ddu o Nantglyn*\*. The composition, next to his in merit, was adjudged to be that of Mr. Thomas Edwards, usually called *Twm o'r Nant*, and sometimes styled the Welsh Shakespeare, on account of the number and excellence of his dramatic pieces in the Welsh language.

Towards the close of the evening, the bards, when their native fire and genius was kindled by good fellowship, and stimulated by rival exertions, poured forth, with surprising fluency, their extemporaneous effusions on subjects started at the moment, and produced pieces truly excellent of their kind. Of these productions, the *Englynion*, or Epigrammatic Stanzas, on Mr. Owen Jones of London, who principally promoted the meeting, having contributed Twenty Pounds for distribution in prizes to the different competitors according to merit, were the more particularly noticed.

On the second day, the vocal and instrumental competitors exhibited their skill, and, after a contest of upwards of twelve hours, Robert Foulks, of St. Asaph, was declared to be the *Pencerdd Davod*, or the best vocal performer, and William Jones, of Gwytherin, the *Pencerdd Dant*, or the best performer on the harp. Several *connoisseurs* in music, who were present, declared that they never recollected a contest of this nature better maintained or to afford more amusement.

The *Eisteddvod* was well attended by proficients in poetry and music—the number of Bards amounting to twenty, of the Vocal Performers to eighteen, and of the Harpers to twelve; and the company, assembled on the interesting occasion, was both numerous and respectable.

\* This is the same person that gained the Chair Medal at Wrexham Eisteddvod, 1820. See the second volume of CAMBRO-BRITON, p. 91.